

Remarks

In this Rule 312 amendment, the applicant has amended claims 1 and 46 in order to correct formal matters that were overlooked in the examiner's amendment that accompanied the 04/12/2007 Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due document. The amendments do not change the scope of claims 1 and 46.

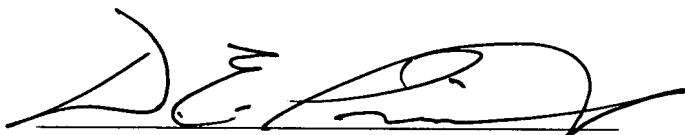
The applicant asks the Office to consider and enter the amendments for the following reasons. First, they are needed for proper protection of the invention. In particular, they are needed in order to avoid any confusion or ambiguity in the wording and meaning of the invention, as embodied in claims 1 and 46. Second, they require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office. (See MPEP § 714.16, p. 700-264, Rev. 5, Aug. 2006.)

In the interest of efficiency and expediency, the applicant further asks that the primary examiner enter the amendments directly. Because the amendments merely correct formal matters, and do not change the scope of the claims, the examiner may enter the amendments without forwarding them to the supervisory patent examiner for approval. (See MPEP § 714.16, p. 700-263, Rev. 5, Aug. 2006.)

Conclusion

Given the Rule 312 amendments and remarks presented above, the applicant asks that the primary examiner consider and enter the amendments at his earliest possible convenience. If the primary examiner (or any other Office representative) has any questions regarding the amendment, the applicant asks the representative to call the applicant's representative at the number listed below, so that any such questions may be swiftly addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



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